



Key Factors of Effective Water Governance in Rural India

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Water Governance & Sustainability

“**Water governance** refers to the range of political, **social**, economic and **administrative systems** that are in place to develop and manage water resources, and the **delivery of water services**, at **different levels of society**.”

(Global Water Partnership)

“we understand **sustainability** to be the **indefinite provision** of a **water service** with certain **agreed** characteristics over time”

(IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre)



<http://onlineworldlook.blogspot.com/2012/05/90-rural-households-will-have-tapped.html>

Service Delivery Approaches That Are Socially Inclusive

Conditions:

- Conservation of water resources
 - Planning, implementation, operation, management involves community
 - Demand creation for safe water
 - Maintenance reserves
- Long-lasting service provision

Approaches:

- Community management PLUS for smaller villages
 - Increased accountability to water committee (reporting, monitoring)
 - Formalization of agreements within local government structures
- Small-scale private sector operator (PPPs) for piped systems in big villages
 - Better and more professional management and service
 - Increased opportunities for revenue collection
 - Train and integrate community



<http://water1st.org/waterlog/2010/05/25/what-happens-to-a-water-project-after-the-ribbon-cutting-ceremony/>

Regulatory Framework That Drives Sustainable Water Governance

Create an enabling environment:

- Transparent and participatory decision-making process involving all stakeholders (local authorities, water committees, consumers)
- Shared responsibility for conservation and provision of water resources through decentralization, private sector participation and strong community involvement
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of stakeholders



Indian Water Sector

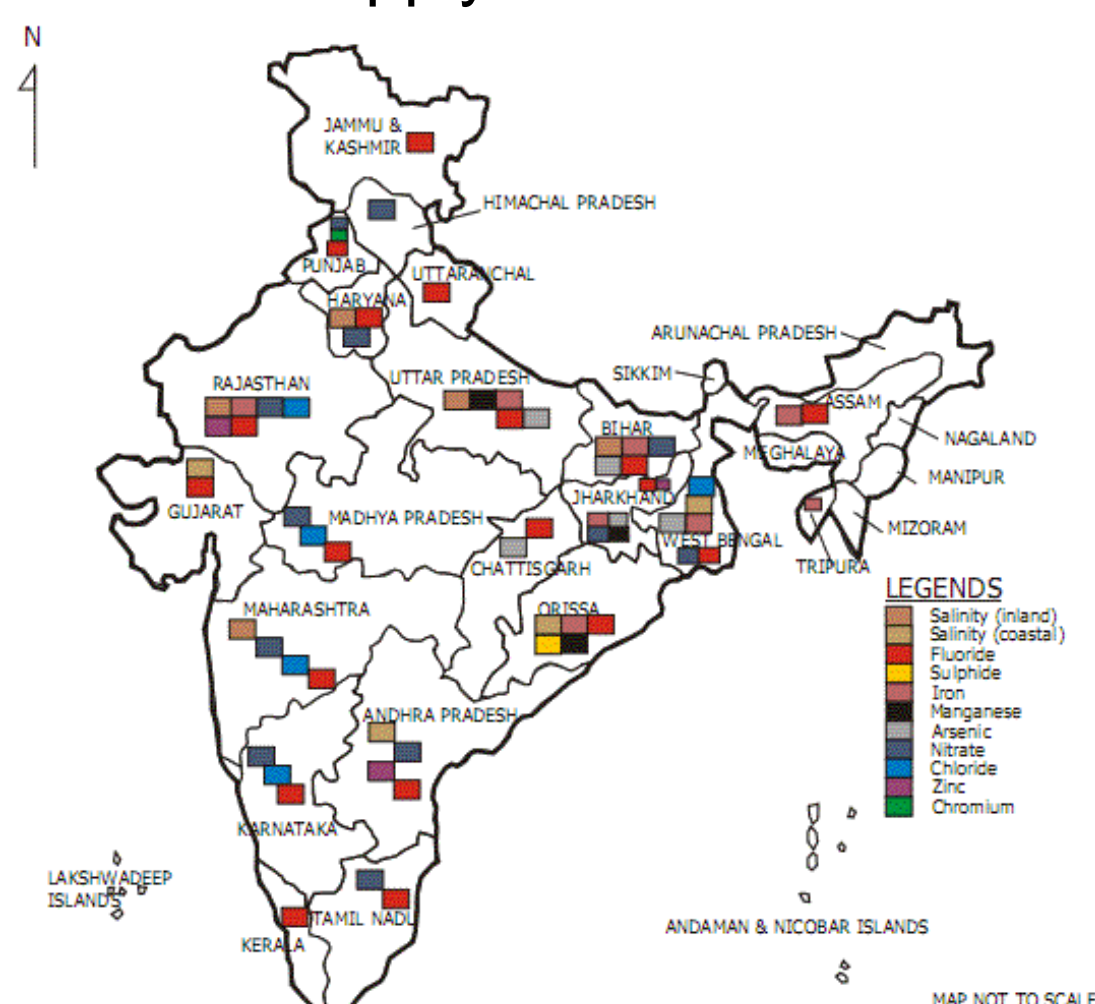
Quantity: > 90% rural people have adequate and potable water (World Bank, 2011)

Quality: 90% of rural households rely on untreated water sources (R. Srikanth, 2009), 40% contaminated with fluoride, arsenic, iron, salts (Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2012-13)

Disease: 21% of communicable diseases water-related (World Bank, 2011)

Sustainability: Slippage 30-40% of systems don't work or work improperly (World Bank, 2011)

Access: Small and remote villages difficult to supply and monitor



<http://www.safewater.in/images/MAP%20of%20ground%20water%20quality%20in%20India.gif>

India Reform Progress

1950: Right to potable water

1969: National Rural Drinking Water Supply programme

1977: Water quality monitoring and surveillance institutionalized

1994: Local bodies responsible for providing drinking water

2002: Start of national community-managed drinking water supply programme to institutionalize community participation (Funding 90:10 centre:community)

2005: Involvement of community became optional (50:50 centre:state)

2009: National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) emphasis on community participation, quality monitoring, sustainability

Service Authority That Connects Delivery and Framework Efficiently

Role & Responsibilities:

- Decentralized local government bodies assist service providers in all stages of water provision
- Focus on post-construction support for long-term success (asset management, water quality)
- Monitoring of performance of service provider

Challenges

- Coverage means installed capacity, regardless of actual supply or quality of water (slippage)
- Insufficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Institution responsibilities are overlapping, uncoordinated and inefficient
- National framework is challenging to implement in all states and locally
- Monitoring groundwater quality in rural areas is difficult